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West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists

6, Taylor Drive, PMB 2023, Yaba,

Lagos, Nigeria

E-mail: wajpeditor@gmail.com

Tel: +234 802 351 9433, +234 807 724 6145

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- To foster multi-disciplinary research and collaboration among pharmaceutical scientists, practicing pharmacists, pharmaceutical industries and the healthcare sector, as well as provide an international forum for the communication and evaluation of data, methods and opinions in pharmacy practice and related disciplines.
- To promote pharmacy practice research for the advancement of pharmacy profession.
- To enhance the competencies of practicing pharmacists.

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- Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Care, Medicines Management, Pharmacoeconomics, Pharmacy Management, and Public Health Pharmacy.
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Correspondence should be directed to:

The Editor-in-Chief
West African Journal of Pharmacy
West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists
6, Taylor Drive, PMB 2023, Yaba, Lagos
Nigeria
E-mail: wajpeditor@gmail.com
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This should include the title of the article, authors' names (First name, middle initial and then the last name of each author) and their affiliations. The corresponding author must provide the full corresponding address (including telephone and e-mail address) at the bottom of the page.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2. Dada OO, Odukoya OA, Taylor OO, Asoro I, Coker HAB, Ologun JT (2003). Toxicological Studies on Jubi Formular. A Nigerian Herbal Preparation, *West Afr J. Pharm* 17(1): 39- 44.

Books

1. Cole MD, Caddy B. (1995). *The Analysis of Drugs of Abuse: An instruction manual*, 2nd edn. New York: Ellis Horwood.
2. Sanders PA. (1979). Aerosol packaging of pharmaceuticals. In: Banker GS, Rhodes CT, (Eds.), *Modern Pharmaceutics*. New York: Marcel Dekker, pp. 591-626.

Online references should include the website and the date material was accessed:

1. Consumers' Association. Patient information: what is the prognosis? Policy report 2003. Available at:
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26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM AND 56TH COUNCIL MEETING OF WEST AFRICAN POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS HELD AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE ACCRA, GHANA, 10TH – 14TH MARCH, 2014

COMMUNIQUÉ

The West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists (WAPCP) held its 26th Annual General Meeting / Scientific Symposium, and 56th Council Meeting at the National Theatre, Accra, Ghana, from 10th – 14th March, 2014. The theme of the Conference was “The Impact of Fake and Substandard Drugs on Quality of Life in West Africa”.

The Special Guest of Honour, His Excellency, Dr. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, was ably represented by Dr Alfred Tia Sugri, Deputy Minister of Health, Ghana. Also present was His Excellency, Governor of Niger State, Nigeria, Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu CON. Other dignitaries present included: Pharm Bruno Nwankwo, FPCPharm, Chairman, Pharmacists Council of Nigeria; Pharm T.C. Corquaye, former Chairman, Food and Drug Authority (FDA) and Past President of WAPCP; and Pharm Hudu Mogtari, Chief Executive Officer, FDA.

All member countries, viz., The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, were represented at the conference.

His Excellency, President of the Republic of Ghana represented by Deputy Minister of Health, formally declared the conference open. Dr Paul Lartey delivered the keynote address on the theme: The Impact of Fake and Substandard Drugs on Quality of Life in West Africa. Sub-theme topics on Drug Distribution: Ensuring the integrity of the Supply Chain; and Transborder Regulation and Control on Drugs, were presented by Pharm. Bruce Egbert and Dr John Nwaiwu, Deputy Controller General (Rtd), Nigerian Customs Service, respectively.

Conference deliberated on the theme and sub-themes of the symposium and other contemporary health-related issues and resolved as follows:

1. Noted with concern that counterfeit and substandard drugs continue to pose a threat to effective delivery of health care in West Africa and called on Governments of the region to take concrete and proactive steps to address this menace. Massive public education should be adopted to frustrate potential drug traffickers.
2. That drug regulatory agencies within the region should harmonize their policies on distribution, importation, exportation, manufacturing, sales and the rational use of drugs in the countries within the ECOWAS zone.
3. Recognized the setting up of ECOWAS Medicines Anti-counterfeiting Committee under the auspices of WAHO, and called on Governments of member countries to empower their regulatory agencies to ensure full implementation of the decisions emanating from that committee.
4. Conference commended the new ECOWAS legislation on fake drugs and called for its adoption by member countries, while advocating for a coordinated approach to the enforcement of the laws through ECOWAS and Interpol.
5. Conference recognized the need for advocacy to influence policy for sourcing essential medicine needs from local manufacturers in our region and reduce dependence on imported medicines; this it is believed will reduce opportunities for fake medicines trafficking.
6. Appealed to Governments of the region to commission research that will evaluate the volume of trade in Sub-standard, Spurious, Falsified, Falsely labeled and Counterfeit (SSFFC) products that will provide the necessary baseline data to work with.
7. There should be advocacy to politicians on the impact of SSFFC and herbal products with spurious claims. Advocacy should also include awareness creation in pharmacovigilance.

8. That product testing through the use of Minilabs should be deployed at point of care to detect and reduce the use of fake drugs.
9. Noted the numerous challenges of transborder regulation and control of drugs. Encouraged member countries to strengthen the Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies involved in transborder regulation and control of drugs.
10. Noted the induction of 134 new Fellows by examination (November 2013 exams), including the induction of two distinguished pharmacists elected as Fellows.
11. Conferred Honorary Fellowship of the College on His Excellency, Dr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, CON, Governor of Niger State, Nigeria, in appreciation for his immense contributions to the growth of the pharmacy profession in general, and development of the College in particular.
12. Expressed its profound appreciation to the Government and good people of Ghana for the hospitality accorded delegates.
13. That the 27th Annual General Meeting / Scientific Symposium and 57th Council meeting of WAPCP will be held in Liberia in March 2015.

(Sgd)

Wiltshire CN Johnson, FPCPharm
President, WAPCP

(Sgd)

Prof Wilson O Erhun, FPCPharm
Secretary General, WAPCP

Dated: 14th March, 2014